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A soft start
Entering the year with grace on pg. 4
Shop around the corner
Visit Haliburton's newest art gallery on pg. 5
Family fun
An activity page for kids on pg. 12

Local high school students participated in nordic ski races on Dec. 18 in Glebe Park. Schools from across the district competed. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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Naturally Yours

Cold Comfort: Wildlife winter strategies

RICK WHITTEKER
County Life Contributor

Whereas a thick duvet of snow arrived surprisingly quick to Haliburton County this winter, our local wildlife has had tens of thousands of years to adapt to our snowy, cold winter conditions. In the simplest terms, winter wildlife either migrate, hibernate or insulate. The reality is that within each one of those survival tactics, there are a wide spectrum of strategies that meet the specific needs of each species.

Migration seems like a logical strategy to cope with the cold. However, without wings or long powerful legs, the distance needed to travel would take too much energy to justify the effort. We often think of migration as birds "flying south" but migration could include movement east and west or even a change in altitude, for example, moving down a mountain side. Factors such as the length of daylight, the availability of food and how much energy it takes to stay warm will all impact the timing of migratory travel.

The record holder for migration distance is the Arctic tern- travelling from the Arctic to the Antarctic every year. My personal favourite is the monarch butterfly, fluttering 4,800 kilometres one way from Ontario to Mexico. Wow!

Beyond these Ripley examples of migration extremes, our local American robin has a more modest migratory path. Some will fly west to southern British Columbia or to southeastern United States. With the warming climate, others simply travel or stay in southwestern Ontario. Their uniquely designed esophagus helps them to cope with wintry weather. It is exceptionally stretchy, creating a pouch which allows robins to eat and store extra food before nightfall, helping them to survive cold temperatures over the nighttime roosting hours.

The groundhog enters a near death state to cope with the winter cold. /photos by Tammy Nash

Chipmunks enter a state of torpor or deep sleep during the winter.

A long winter slumber also seems like a reasonable cold weather plan. Long term dormancy is called hibernation which short-term inactivity is called torpor. This continuum includes "true hibernators" at one end, "deep sleepers" in the middle and "occasional sleepers" at the other end.

The groundhog is a true hibernator. Curling up in an underground burrow, this large rodent hibernates for three months. The groundhog's core temperature drops from 37 C to 3 C. Their heartrate falls from 80 to five beats a minute. Breathing slows from 16 breathes a minute to as low as two. This is more than a deep sleep; this is almost complete metabolic shut down, a near-death state to save energy. Even so, the groundhog loses about 25 per cent of its body fat over the course of the winter.

Torpor, or deep sleep, is an energy saving strategy which is used by some wildlife for brief time periods. Raccoons and squirrels curl up and sleep during the extreme cold, otherwise they are active all winter.

Long states of torpor with occasional arousal are common for species like skunks and chipmunks. Chipmunk s significantly lower their core temperature, their respiration and heartrate. They do wake up and warm up to defecate, urinate and eat portions of their cached food. Their body rewarming is triggered by the energy-rich brown fat stored in their chest area which warms the heart circulating warm blood to the extremities. Once awake and the bio break is over, the chipmunk slips back into a near comma for another extended period of torpor depending on environmental conditions.

Insulation, cold resistance or tolerance is the third winter strategy; adaptations which allow some species to remain in place and stay active. Growing extra insulation is one evolutionary adaptation to the cold. For example, red foxes grow a thicker coat of fur including a bushy tail used to wrap around them during rest. Ruff grouse grow feathers right to their beak and down their legs.

While moose also grow more fur and hollow hairs to keep them warm, their large body mass and long legs help them to store more fat and move through deep snow. With some exceptions, larger animals like moose do better in the cold due to a higher body mass-to-weight ratio. Winter wildlife usually have shorter ears and tails to reduce heat loss and the chance of frostbite.

When daylight hours drop, the hypothalamus gland signals to the body to change behaviour or appearance to prepare for the cold. Beavers and red squirrels cache food. Snowshoe hare, a few weasels and ptarmigan grow thicker fur and feathers that are white, keeping them warmer and better camouflaged from predators in a snowy landscape.

Big brown bats living in cold climates combine strategies by flying to the south to find a warmer place to hibernate, reducing their hibernation period. Most hummingbirds fly south during cold periods but recent studies have found that some hummingbirds stay put, dropping their core temperature and entering a short torpor state to cope with the cold. Chickadees roost in flocks and rely on nighttime torpor to survive the winter.

There are many strategies that wildlife uses to survive the cold challenge of winter. Travel to warmer climates, curling up and entering an energy saving sleep state or tolerating the winter with a slew of adaptations to survive the rigors of winter living. While most species are dependent on one strategy, others combined winter survival tactics, a potential benefit during this period of climate uncertainty.

County Life

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For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

CANOE 100.9 FM

Canoe FM Begins On-Air Testing on 97.1 FM in Minden!

Canoe FM is excited to announce that **Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)** has authorized us to begin on-air testing of the permanent transmitting facilities at our repeater station, **CKHA-FM-1**, broadcasting on **97.1 FM** out of **Minden, Ontario.**

Testing will begin on **December 17, 2024**, and will conclude no later than **January 28, 2025**.

We value your feedback during this testing period. If you have any ***comments or concerns***, please reach out to us by:
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After the testing has been approved 97.1 Minden & 100.9 Haliburton will be permanent frequencies in our County. Thank you for your support as we improve Canoe FM's reach to serve more of our amazing community!

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TARION

Storytellers of Haliburton County

Creating characters for a series

JANET TRULL

County Life Contributor

When I think about my favourite fictional characters, I remember feeling sad to lose them at the end of a book. They become good friends who help us negotiate our own challenges. That's why we all love a good series. I read all eight of L. M. Montgomery's books about the red-headed orphan from Prince Edward Island. Through childhood to motherhood, loves and losses, Anne retained a positive outlook and courage of spirit. I adored Nancy Drew, too, and all her mystery-solving sidekicks. Adventurous, but ethical, they got me through a lot of winter colds and bouts of bronchitis. No school? No problem. My bedside table was stacked with books that I read and re-read.

Meet Deloris Packard. Have you ever sat on the dock with a cup of coffee and thought, this would be a great setting for a novel? Deloris Packard took all her summer lakeside memories, bundled them together with her knowledge of family relationships, and wrote *The Cedar Grove Resort* trilogy.

Three sisters inherit a three-million-dollar resort in Ontario cottage country when their mother dies unexpectedly. The women are at different places and stages of their lives and must come together as unwilling business partners, to protect their inheritance.

Susan is the oldest sister who considers herself to be the wisest. She is a forty-year-old real estate agent who lives with her husband and their two kids in a fixer upper kind of home, thirty minutes north of Toronto. Janice, the middle child, is an Ottawa florist with a messy personal life. A divorce forced her to sell her home and business. Debbie, the main character, is the youngest sister at thirty-four years old. She has been the general manager of Cedar Grove Resort, working alongside their mother. The sisters must learn how to work together as a team and overcome all the challenges and obstacles that are in their way.

So far, Deloris has written three *Cedar Grove* books, making it a series with lots of sister drama! "I feel that my characters need to be relatable," she says. "Each of my characters has their own personality, their own strengths and weaknesses. The three sisters have strong bonds, adding more layers to their relationships."

Readers got hooked on the characters, so Deloris has started working on her next project, a new Three Sisters Trilogy. Fans will be happy to hear that the women are back with a Bed and Breakfast investment opportunity.

"I start each story by doing a rough outline with points on problems and conflicts that I want to include. I set up timelines for the sisters and a rough draft of where the plot is going. When I finish the first draft, I go back through it with a critical eye, adding more descriptions and breaking up dialogues that are too long. Then I record the story and listen for any discrepancies. When I am happy with it, I send it to my professional editor to do the final edit."

Deloris makes a great point. Reading your work aloud is a good way to see if it flows. If you are getting tripped up with tongue twisters and confusing subplots, your readers will too.

Deloris also wrote a non-fiction book called, Anticipatory Grief, *Anticipating the Passing of a Loved One*. "When someone you love has a terminal diagnosis, like cancer for example, you anticipate the loss before they pass away," Deloris explains. "This book is a collection of stories from people who have gone through Anticipatory Grief with suggestions to support those who may experience it. For me personally, I was so busy being the caregiver for my mother, that I didn't realize it was grief I was feeling. I just remember being unconsolably sad. I had already grieved for five months before my mother passed away. My siblings did not grieve until after she passed. I think I got through the after-grief, quicker than they did, because I had a five-month head start on my grieving journey. From the people who shared their stories with me, the common thread was that they all felt the same intense grief in the anticipation of losing their loved ones."

For Deloris, writing is both therapeutic and rewarding. All her books are available in paperback, ebooks and Audio. Check out Deloris Packard Author on youtube, and look for Deloris at Bookapalooza in Minden this coming July.

Deloris Packard with her book, *The Inheritance*. /Submitted

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Recurring events

Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
Five spins for $10. The first four rounds are for highest and lowest score with two winners per round.
The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two.
Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each.
Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Bridge for Seniors
When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Room
All welcome

Haliburton Legion Walking Group
When: Mondays at 9 to 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
A safe walking environment. Lead by an Occupational therapist.

Free Balanced Fitness and Active Social Senior Classes
When: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Bid Euchre
When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembr ance Hall
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A gentle start to the year

KATE BUTLER
County Life Contributor

It's time for a brand-new shiny year filled with 365 days of possibilities! How does that make you feel? Excited or daunted? We tend to place a great deal of pressure on ourselves at the beginning of a new year, especially if we've chosen to begin the year with a resolution or three. Figures vary, but it's widely recognized that the majority of New Year's resolutions lose steam within the first few weeks of the year, which suggests that we might need to look at them in a different light.

Personally, I'm a strong believer in entering a new year gently and recognizing that everything doesn't have to happen or even begin on January 1st. There is nothing that says you need to make resolutions, even if everyone else seems to be doing it. If there's a habit you want to change or embrace, any day is a suitable day to begin, and that suitable time might be later in the year. Yes, New Year's Day is the first day of the year, so perhaps it makes sense to begin something new then, but it is simply one day of the year and it's a day that lands in the middle of winter. The winter is a time when much of the natural world chooses to hibernate, so it's no surprise if we find ourselves feeling some sympathy for that. Perhaps spring, with its longer days and budding trees, is a better time to begin new things, depending on the resolution we have in mind.

It can also be easy with resolutions to feel as if we need to do it all at once. Don't forget that small steps can take us in the same direction as great leaps. Sometimes people see a "failure" of one day as a failure of an entire resolution. A day missed is simply that - a day missed. We can pick up where we left off the day before. Sometimes, if the motivation is truly and continually a struggle, it can be a sign that we might need to reassess the original resolution we had in mind to make sure that it really resonates with us. If a decision you made to take up running subsequently fills you with dread, what about walking instead? If you want to write a book in one year, but feel overwhelmed, why not commit to writing each day, even if it's only a few words? Those steps and those words will add up.

Sadly, many resolutions which people make are fueled by the idea that there is something wrong with them that needs to be fixed, and this compounds those feelings of guilt on the missed days and causes people to throw in the towel prematurely. If you do feel inspired to make resolutions this year, I hope that you'll lead with this one first of all: "Be kind to yourself." It's easy to get caught up in things that you want to change or improve, but as we start this new year, I hope you'll also take time to look back and consider how far you've already come and how much you've already accomplished. Living in the middle of it, you might not recognize all you've achieved until you take a moment's pause. Here's to a kind, gentle and happy start to 2025!

Ski skills

Students from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School participated in nordic ski races at Glebe Park on Dec. 18. The early snow of the season made for good conditions on the trails, and a series of locals made the podium at the end of the cold day. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Art for all at the Corner Gallery

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

David Partridge stands amongst some of his favourite pieces in the current Corner Gallery exhibit, Wintershades. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Art.

It can be used as an expression, as a statement. It can be bright and bold or soft and subtle. It can stir political pots, or unite the community through common themes and experiences.

That's what the curator of the Corner Gallery, David Partridge, wants to get across. "This is an open place," he said, while gesturing to the cozy rooms, laden with colour, "I never want art to feel elitist in any way."

Partridge originally hails from Toronto, and while he has a background in art and music, he quickly realized that formalized art school was not for him. "I couldn't do it," he laughed. "I didn't last long there."

He stepped into the role of curator for the gallery in February of this year, but really dove into the local art scene in May. *Wintershades*, the newest exhibit donning the walls of the building, is his first full endeavour into the curatorial world.

The pieces are done by a variety of artists, who Partridge identifies as "loosely local". He spent the better part of this year navigating the local arts scene to see who would fit his vision for the current show. "All the pieces are landscape based," he said. "I find that almost all the art up here is based up here, because that's what really resonates with people."

And while he scoped out the artists who fit the bill, Partridge was adamant about forming both personal and professional relationships with them along the way. "The connections here are so tight," he shared. "I really do consider all of these people to be friends at this point."

Some of the artists include Harvey Walker, Rod Prouse, Gord Jones, Renee Woltz, Marissa Sweet, and Ian Varney to name a few. Many have taught at Haliburton School of Art + Design, while others have either lived or cottaged in the Haliburton area for years.

While they have all dabbled in their explorations of local landscapes, no two pieces are even remotely the same.

And while many curators may group pieces together in an exhibit based on the artist of origin, Partridge tackled Wintershades differently. "It's all by colour," he shared, noting that this way, viewers aren't pigeonholing their experience in the gallery to someone they have historically known or liked, rather, they can experience the works as a whole.

He has one room he affectionately refers to as "The Purple Room", with each piece sharing hues of rich violets; a similarity that may not be noted if the pieces lived by themselves.

Something that sets the Corner Gallery apart from others, is the fact that it resides in the Lucas House; a historic building on the corner of Mountain Street and Maple Avenue. The old home is prevalent in photographs from the turn of the century, and proudly showcases the creaks and crevices that come naturally with age. With years of history whispering through the walls of the residence-turned-gallery, Partridge had his work cut out for him when it came to creating a flow and a storyline with *Wintershades*.

"Some say there are certain ways you're supposed to hang things, ways you're supposed to display things on the walls," he said, as he toured through each room, "but I liked to just have fun with it, and put pieces together that shared some similarities and stories."

Partridge is dedicated to creating a space that welcomes everyone into the winding halls of the old Lucas House, so much so that he created a weekly event to get people through the doors.

"Coffee and Canvas," he chuckled. "What started as a program to grab a free coffee and check out the art has quickly turned into people staying for two hours to chat."

The group meets every Tuesday, from 12 until 2 p.m., and Partridge shared that many build their schedules around the weekly meet and greet, as it's an opportunity for like-minded artists and non-artists to gather and gab about their worlds of creativity. All are welcome to drop in for a coffee and a chat during the window of the week.

"The focus of the gallery is good people, and good art," said Partridge, "but it's always about the people, and appreciating that art can be for everyone."

The Corner Gallery is located at 123 Maple Avenue, and is open Tuesday to Thursday, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. *Wintershades* can be viewed any time over the winter months.

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Past, present , future

TIME IS a funny thing.

As I sit and type this, the world outside goes on. It's currently raining, though I hear in the future, that may turn to snow. Time will tell.

It's a few days before Christmas. The energy and buzz around the holidays building towards its crescendo of December 25. And yes, when you read this, that day will be one of the past.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

We write many of our stories in advance. As is the nature of this industry; always two steps ahead and two steps behind, leaving us somewhere in the middle at all times.

We write stories about upcoming events, political predictions, future unfoldings.

We also write about the ones who came before us; sharing their stories and songs.

We write about past elections, historical happenings, and the very building blocks of our communities.

It's a funny job, putting ink to paper. Two steps ahead and two steps behind. At all times.

We're not breaking news, but we bring the weekly news; the stories of our little snowglobe of a world. Ink to paper, week in, and week out.

Living in a constant state of nostalgia and hope.

Well, usually it's hope.

Sometimes it's discouragement, sometimes it's fear, sometimes it's denial.

Back and forth, back and forth.

While I sit, putting ink to paper a few short days before Christmas, with the hope of 2025 on the horizon, I can't help but look to the future.

Many see the new year as a fresh start, a new beginning, the first chapter of a book in which you are the author.

Others see the changeover from December to January to be a reminder of dropped goals, of unfinished business, of departed dreams.

I see it as a reminder that time keeps on ticking. And as a journalist, it's difficult to see a specific day as something to sit still in. After all, we are always two steps behind and two steps ahead. In the *Haliburton Echo* and the *Minden Times* in the coming weeks, you will see our Year in Review; a four week feature that captures the highs and lows from the past year.

It's both a treat and a challenge to dig through a full year's worth of newspapers; finding the sorting the sweet from the sour. That reminder that time keeps on ticking, that we have another chance at a new chapter ahead of us.

And in order to build and write that new chapter, we pull from our past to shape our future.

Maybe it's not just journalists who are set on two planes of existence; the constant balancing act of past and future in order to slide into the cracks of the present.

And while we have all seen those motivational posters and bumper stickers reminding us to live in the moment, it's such a fleeting experience that it nearly feels impossible.

The words I wrote at the beginning of this story are already in the past. The publication date on these words is in the future. And I am just in the middle, typing away while time ticks on.

While living in the present may seem like a never-ending race you just can't win, my wish for you is that you hold your past and your future with grace and hope.

Two steps back; seeing how far you have come, the people who shaped you, the stories you've written.

Two steps forward; The sights you will see, the connections you will forge, the promise of tomorrow on the horizon.

So, this 2024 Emily, typing away, a few days before Christmas, wishes each and every reader a safe, happy, and healthy year ahead. May it be filled with grace, hope, and beauty in the past, the present, and the future.

Top 10 reasons 2025 will be better

WITH THE new year fast approaching, I notice some people are less than optimistic. But I happen to believe there are many reasons why the new year will be better than the last. Here are my top 10.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

1. Who doesn't love a year that can be easily divided by 25?
2. Drones over Jersey, the musical.
3. If you were married in 2000 when someone asks, "How many years have you been married?" the math will be doable.
4. We can finally rest easy about Y2K.
5. It's the first year of the rest of your life, unless you are born the following year.
6. RFK and Trump will probably bond over brain-worms.
7. We will find Amelia Earhart on a deserted island and hear the historic words, "It's about time…."
8. Road engineers will finally admit that they can't do better than Hot Wheels tracks.
9. Despite what the song says, they will finally find a cure for love.
10. Another year, another great excuse for new cheque books!

Flurry

Flurry of snowflakes, blurring Air, blotting the hills and Lake,
a pair of seagulls dueling with Wind, flapping their wings without flying anywhere,
Wind flinging them sideways, as snowflakes melt on their feathers,
the world feeling untethered, as the year slouches towards its end,
a bend in the road, blinded by Snow, I can't see where it leads,
this time of In-Between, when the old hasn't died, the new hasn't yet been born,
this week of quiet reverie, walking through the Snow, wondering what the new year will bring,
standing on the side of the road, watching Wind fling the seagulls to and fro,
wondering why they decided to fly in the storm, maybe when they departed, the Air was still and calm,
like when I left for my walk, caught now, in this flurry, like the seagulls, trapped in a giant snow globe,
the beauty and terror of it at the same time, watching the snowflakes swirling through Air,
millions of them, not a single one collides, quiet on their journey between Sky and the ground,
the only sound I hear is the squawking of the gulls, as they struggle to fly,
my eyes blinking away snowflakes that land on my lashes, feeling them melt on my cheeks like tears,
for the year ending, but also relief, the world surviving another year of turmoil and chaos and strife,
Life, clinging, sometimes, by a gossamer thread, in its will to live,
Hearts beating, heads pounding, seeds of peace, buried underground,
waiting to sprout and flourish and spread,
instead, these albatross wings weighing the old year down, this flurry of snowflakes whirling through Air,
the pair of seagulls, finally, flapping somewhere, as they let Wind carry them on its current,
disappearing from view,
swallowed by the millions of snowflakes drifting through Air, as I clomp along my favourite road,
climbing up and up,
my boots and Breath carrying me, savouring this brief period of In-Between,
where I walk through the Snow, neither towards something or away from it, only my steps,
walking along this road,
that curves and bends like the year, the earth, holding its Breath, wondering what will be,
billions of us, tiny as snowflakes, swirling through the world, wondering where we will land,
billions of hands, reaching out, grasping for the same thing, endings intertwined with beginnings,
waiting for seeds of peace to spring.

Sylvie Kalenda

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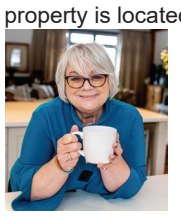

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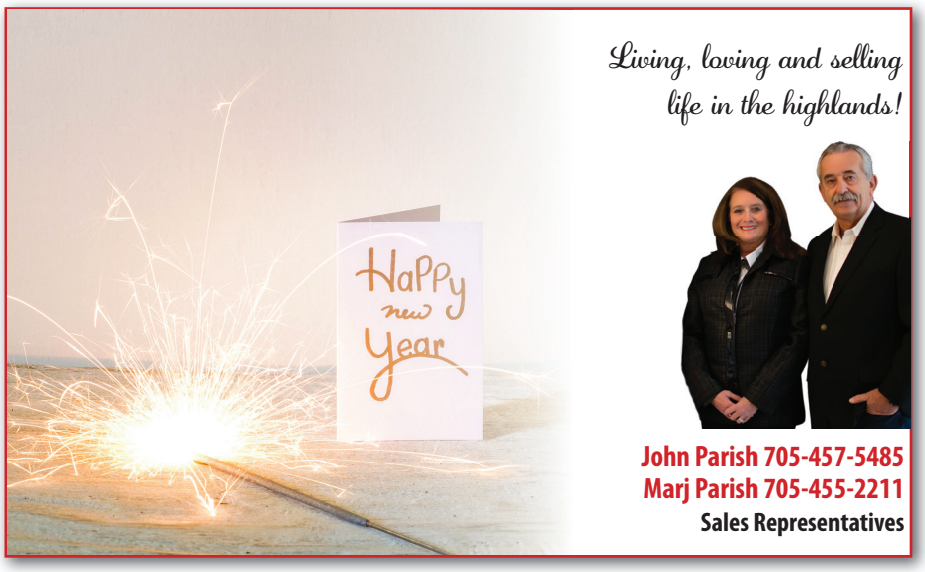

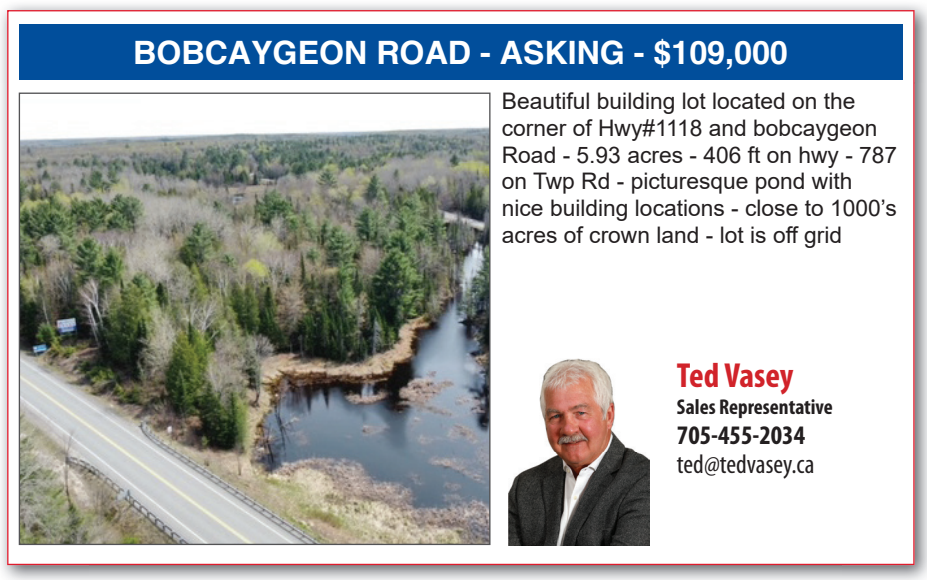
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Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

Blue Jay, submitted by Tammy Nash

A snowy deer by Jill Moulton

A mallard duck takes flight, by Jill Moulton

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid euchre 1 p.m.
Cornhole 7 p.m. (upstairs)
Ladies darts 7:30 p.m. (downstairs)
Tuesday: Coffee and chat 9 to 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Coffee and chat 9 to 10:30 a.m. Mixed darts 7:30 p.m. Canteen opens at 6 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (3rd week) Members only 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Chair yoga 10 a.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. Supper special every week. Canteen opens at 4 p.m.
Saturday: Meat draw 5 p.m. Canteen opens at 3 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) third Sunday every month at 2 p.m.
We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you.

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. First Wed of each month - $1000 jackpot, rest will be a $500 jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome!
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541. Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Closed, Wednesday: 2 to 6 p.m., Thursday: 2 to 10 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 1 - Presidents Levy, Food provided, Noon to 2 pm.
Thursday, Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Cornhole, $5/player, 7 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 3, 17, 31 - Wings and Jam, $15/lb, 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25 - Meat Draw, 3 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 - Darts, $5/player, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 - Darts, $4/player, 2 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 10, 21, Seniors 55+ Lunch, $15, Noon
Friday, Jan. 10 - Fish 'n' Chips, $15, 5 to 8 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 12 - LA Breakfast, 9 to 11 a.m., $10
Saturday, Jan. 18 - Karaoke, Food provided, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Friday, Jan 24. -Spaghetti Dinner, 5 to 8 p.m., $15
Saturday Jan 25. - Pat and Phyllis Memorial Ice Fishing Derby
Weigh in is at 3 p.m. Registration is $20. Call the Legion for more info 705-448-2221

A very close deer, submitted by Tammy Nash

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A cute and curious fox, submitted by Tammy Nash

Fire safety for winter months

With winter now here and snow in the forecast, fire departments around Ontario are working hard to keep people safe. One of the ways they are doing that is by presenting the 12 days of fire and carbon monoxide safety tips.

"The number one cause for fires in homes is in the kitchen," said Scott Petrie, the director of fire prevention with the City of Stratford. "When you have 20 people in the kitchen, with the grownups and kids, there is an increased hazard there."

Each fire department takes care of the 12 days in their own ways, with tips being similar for each department.

The full list of tips includes:

- use the proper lights when decorating and check for worn or damaged cords
- keep decorations away from candles
- install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms
- water fresh trees daily
- check extension cords for damage and use them properly
- use candles with care
- practice and prepare your home escape plan
- look while you cook
- keep heating sources away from anything that can burn
- smoke outside
- be aware of lithium-ion batteries.

"With tree watering, you need to be careful and make sure she's moist," said Petrie. "One thing that has changed is LED lighting, which has really made a difference as there is not really a significant heat source."

Heating sources are also a significant factor in holiday safety, with people using different sources for ensuring their homes are warm.

"We know that everyone is on a different budget, but we do urge caution when using alternative heating sources," said Petrie. "We use the saying give your heater a meter, but if you are using a space heater the recommendation is three feet."

An often not thought of tip is around the lithium-ion batteries, as many new gifts may contain the batteries, which pose a fire hazard.

"A lot of gifts now will contain the lithium-ion batteries, which can pose a fire risk," said Petrie. "Something else we recommend is to use proper chargers, for example an Apple charger for Apple products. We also ask people to leave their phones on a table or shelf nearby the bed, not under a pillow. Another big gift this year is E-bikes and scooters, which at this time of year will likely be charged inside, so it's important to also keep an eye on those things charging."

As always a key for fire departments is to check smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms, with a need for batteries to be charged twice per year or every six months.

"Alarms need to be up-to-date as they do expire," said Petrie. "A lot of newer alarms are two in one with carbon monoxide and smoke detectors all in one, with a ten year lithium-ion battery, which is a new feature."

It is also important to note that carbon monoxide is an invisible and odorless gas that causes problems including flu-like symptoms. The problem is many people don't even know they are ill, so they could go to sleep and might not wake up.

Submitted

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SNOW MUCH FUN

Spelling Scramble

Unscramble these wintry words!

SGLVOE _____

NSIKTAG _____

LWSLOANB _____

CELCII _____

FACRS _____

Answers: gloves, skating, snowball, icicle, scarf

SPELL IT OUT!

I _ _ S _ _ _ _

S _ _ _ _ _ _ _

S _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

I _ _ _ _

M _ _ _ _ _

S _ _ _

Answers: Ice Skate, Snowman, Snowflake, Igloo, Mitten, Sled

Help this squirrel find his acorns.

Winter FUN FACTS

Snow isn't white! It's translucent, but the light reflecting off it makes it appear white.

It takes about one hour for a snowflake to leave its cloud and reach the ground.

Igloos are much warmer than the temperature outside because the packed snow acts as insulation, trapping body heat inside the structure.

Bears, bats, chipmunks, groundhogs, wood frogs and snakes are some of the North American animals that enter hibernation during winter.

AT THE RINK WORD SEARCH

U	V	A	A	F	K	N	O	U	A	N	S	I	B	C	N	H	O	L	X
R	R	P	L	D	N	J	Z	T	G	O	P	H	L	N	O	A	W	P	B
S	P	I	H	V	O	M	L	U	H	V	Z	R	A	K	L	H	C	F	U
X	P	W	V	B	A	Y	L	V	B	I	T	U	D	M	J	K	E	U	F
J	N	E	S	R	L	Z	P	L	O	C	G	M	E	Y	L	U	I	C	D
V	D	I	G	X	B	Z	I	A	X	E	T	F	I	L	D	K	S	B	I
T	O	O	P	R	A	S	N	P	S	L	N	V	E	V	P	N	C	R	R
U	R	H	W	S	P	C	O	G	N	O	I	T	I	T	E	P	M	O	C
P	A	K	T	E	E	W	B	J	J	R	E	Z	L	Y	E	K	C	O	H
K	F	L	E	P	P	P	M	W	H	T	I	L	E	G	D	E	Z	D	P
C	H	D	E	P	K	R	A	O	O	Z	I	M	C	D	I	F	T	A	P
L	R	W	L	X	E	R	Z	Y	L	S	L	G	S	F	S	N	T	H	C
S	K	N	N	L	A	P	A	L	I	I	K	H	E	G	C	R	P	T	D
X	K	H	L	G	K	W	H	N	P	J	I	H	A	M	I	W	U	S	B
V	A	O	I	X	A	X	G	Y	S	M	X	M	S	T	P	G	M	H	Y
O	R	D	H	K	C	L	O	R	P	I	U	R	O	K	L	E	R	T	G
O	C	X	A	H	E	V	I	P	D	T	I	J	N	L	I	R	A	S	I
E	C	E	E	S	T	N	E	W	I	Z	D	R	R	K	N	W	W	A	N
K	R	C	G	G	K	G	N	I	T	A	K	S	I	G	E	W	E	O	U
B	K	R	W	M	H	R	C	O	R	G	S	Y	V	F	H	Y	Y	C	G

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

AXEL
BLADE
BREAKAWAY
CHECK
COAST
COMPETITION
DISCIPLINE
EDGE
FLIP
HOCKEY
ICE
JUMP
LIFT
NOVICE
PROGRAM
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Four companies bid for municipal office

Quotes range from $1.5- to $2-million

by MATTHEW WALLS
Times staff

The fate of the proposed municipal office for Minden Hills could be determined by council within the next few weeks.

Last Wednesday, Minden Hills council opened four building tenders for the office, with figures ranging from $1.5 million to close to $2 million.

Council will not make any decisions until they read the report on the tenders being prepared by architect Duncan Ross, CAO Gerry Morrison and Environmental and Property Operations Manager Bob Romberg.

Reeve Ross Rigney said council will look at the report and the documents at its first meeting on Thursday, and will likely then set a meeting to discuss the tenders.

Rigney and councillors Peter Oyler, Cheryl Murdoch and Ron Buchanan attended the tenders' opening.

Oyler said he thinks the lower figures "probably are attainable" for council.

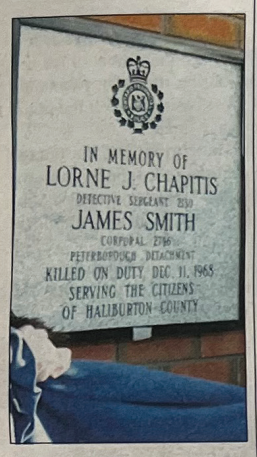
The tenders were received after council made a second call for building tenders on September 25th, after the first call drew only just one response.

For this tender, the proposed building site was the Minden Curling Club's parking lot.

While the Curling Club has not publicly opposed the proposal, the club's executive is said to be split on the issue and several months ago the executive sent a letter to council stating their reservations. One of the executive members, Cheryl Murdoch,

see COUNCIL *page 16*

LOOK INSIDE



Slain officers *honoured*

Thirty-five years after two police officers were murdered at South Lake, a plaque is dedicated in their honour at Minden OPP.

See page 3

Pie-back time

ASES's top magazine seller gets to make principal enjoy a taste of pie

See page 10

In Quotes

"Please, Bill, don't do anything you'll be sorry for."
Lorne Chapitis's last words befor he was shot

Matthew Walls/TIMES

Christmas in Carnarvon
Ladies from the Lochlin United Church were among those who participated in the Christmas in Carnarvon celebrations. The ladies, including Marilyn Marks, Lois Rigney (behind), Yvonne Newell, Linda Catenazzi and Janice Shaw, left to right, entertained by performing a skit.

Weather to blame for power outages: Hydro

by JERRY GROZELLE & MARTHA PERKINS
Times staff

Mother Nature is being blamed for power outages that we have experienced in Haliburton County over the past several weeks. A combination of factors has caused problems, says Ken Casey, Union Trade Supervisor with Hydro One in Minden.

High winds have not only contributed to trees being blown down across hydro lines, they also played havoc with some old copper wires.

Casey said that copper is vulnerable to vibrations caused by high winds. That is what caused an outage in Haliburton County last Tuesday evening. The copper line snapped at the corner of Highway 35 and the north junction of County Road 121 near the Corner Store at just after 7 p.m. on December 2. The break in the line affected three power stations – Minden, Kinmount and Gull River (on the Deep Bay Road).

When the line broke, it slipped

see WET GROUND *page 2*

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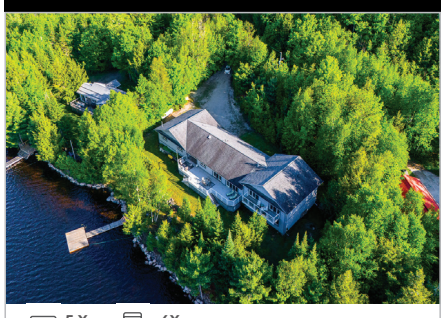

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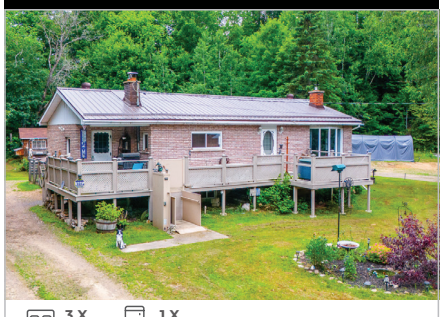
$679,900

*DEEDED ACCESS TO MAPLE LAKE | MLS# X10437737

BLACK RIVER/DRAG LAKE
$499,000

3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X10435688

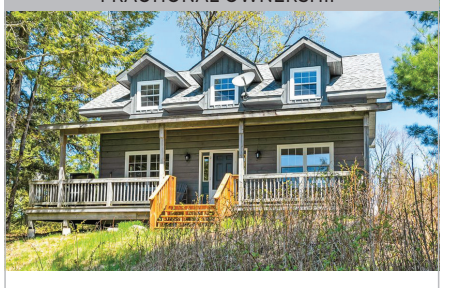
HIGHLAND GROVE
$474,900



3 X BED | 1 X BATH | MLS# X10437756

CHANDLER POINT
$67,000

FRACTIONAL OWNERSHIP

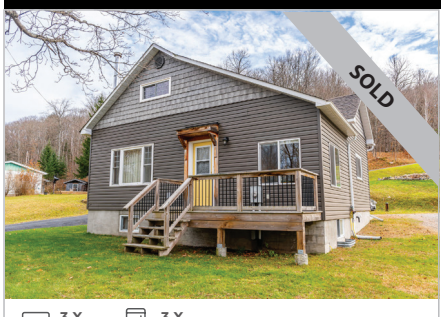


MLS# X11884689

HALIBURTON LAKE
$799,000

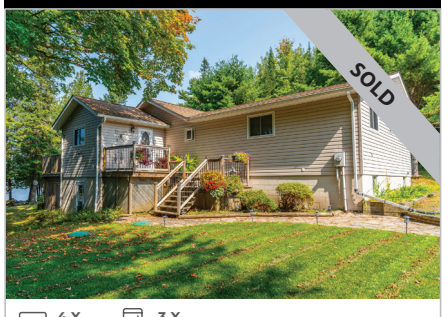
3 X BED | 1 X BATH

EAGLE LAKE
$597,000



3 X BED | 3 X BATH

HALIBURTON LAKE
$1,250,000



4 X BED | 3 X BATH

WEST GUILFORD
$395,000

3 X BED | 1 X BATH

EAGLE LAKE
$925,000

3 X BED | 2 X BATH

Vacant Land For Sale

Redstone Lake
MLS X10437225
$499,900
1.16 Acres

Haliburton Lake Road
MLS X10437518
$250,000
14.53 Acres

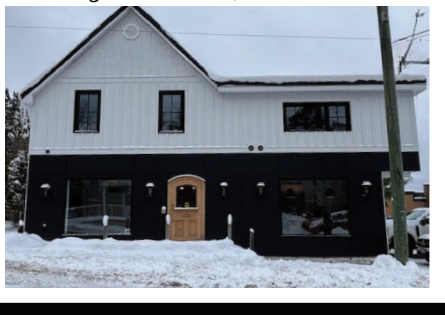
Bethel Road
MLS X10899794
$191,000
24.65 Acres

Basshaunt Lake Road
MLS X10437016
$109,000
2.19 Acres

Wenona Lake Road
MLS 10899857
$109,000
0.42 Acres

BRG HAS OFFICIALLY MOVED!

7 Dysart Avenue, Haliburton



Linda Baumgartner - Broker of Record | Owner
(705) 457.3461
contact@baumgartnerrealty.ca
www.baumgartnerrealty.ca

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